



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Southern District of Indiana*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CHICAGO AREA DRUG TRAFFICKER GETS LIFE  
FOR SUPPLYING HEROINE TO INDIANAPOLIS**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that HERMAN CUNNINGHAM, 56, Richton Park, Illinois, was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday by U.S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following his conviction at trial December 9, 2004 for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin. This case was the result of a investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Indianapolis Police Department, Bloomington Police Department and the Marion County Prosecutor's Office.

CUNNINGHAM was arrested in January, 2004 as part of a 17-member conspiracy which acquired large quantities of heroin from Chicago at bulk prices for distribution in

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Indianapolis. CUNNINGHAM acted as a source of supply in the conspiracy.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Josh J. Minkler, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Barker also imposed 10 years supervised release following CUNNINGHAM's imprisonment.

Thirteen other co-defendants have already been sentenced in this case. They are:

ROBERT RICE, age 46, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 78 months imprisonment, 3 years supervised release, a \$500.00 fine, and a \$100.00 special assessment on August 25, 2004 by U. S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following RICE'S guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and to distribute heroin.

SHARON GRUNDY, age 51, Indianapolis, Indiana was sentenced to 36 months imprisonment, 3 years supervised release and a \$200.00 special assessment on September 17, 2004 by U. S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following GRUNDY'S guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and to distribute heroin and one count of distribution of heroin.

ALBERTA TAYLOR, age 27, Indianapolis, Indiana was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment, 3 years supervised release and a \$400.00 special assessment on September 27, 2004 by U. S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following TAYLOR'S guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and to distribute heroin and three counts of distribution of heroin.

TROY CORLEY, age 35, Indianapolis, Indiana was sentenced to 42 months

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imprisonment, 3 years supervised release and a \$100.00 special assessment on October 6, 2004 by U. S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following CORLEY'S guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and to distribute heroin.

WENDELL DENSON, age 33, Chicago, Illinois was sentenced to 48 months imprisonment, 3 years supervised release and a \$100.00 special assessment on December 14, 2004 by U. S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following DENSON'S guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin.

JENNIFER BRANCH-JOHNSON, age 28, Indianapolis, Indiana was sentenced to 33 months imprisonment, 3 years supervised release and a \$100.00 special assessment on September 17, 2004 by U. S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following BRANCH-JOHNSON'S guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin.

MICHAEL SMITH, age 43, Indianapolis, Indiana was sentenced to 41 months imprisonment, 4 years supervised release and a \$100.00 special assessment on December 20, 2004 by U. S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following SMITH'S guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and to distribute in excess of one kilogram of heroin.

ROBERT BENTLEY, age 62, Indianapolis, Indiana was sentenced to 144 months imprisonment, 3 years supervised release and a \$400.00 special assessment on December 21, 2004 by U. S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following BENTLEY'S guilty plea to one count

of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute 100 grams or more of heroin, one count of possession with the intent to distribute heroin, one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

JERRY TURENTINE, age 45, Indianapolis, Indiana was sentenced to 144 months imprisonment, 3 years supervised release and a \$400.00 special assessment on January 4, 2005 by U. S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following TURENTINE'S guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and to distribute 100 grams or more of heroin, one count of possession with the intent to distribute heroin, one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

DEWAYNE DRAKE, age 45, Indianapolis, Indiana was sentenced to 57 months imprisonment, 6 years supervised release and a \$100.00 special assessment on January 28, 2005 by U. S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following DRAKE'S guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and to distribute in excess of one kilogram of heroin.

BRENDA FINNEY, age 52, Indianapolis, Indiana was sentenced to 84 months imprisonment, 4 years supervised release and a \$100.00 special assessment on February 10, 2005 by U. S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following FINNEY'S guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and to distribute 100 grams of heroin.

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JAWANNA ROUSON, age 30, Cincinnati, Ohio was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment, 4 years supervised release and a \$100.00 special assessment on February 10, 2005 by U. S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following ROUSON'S guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin.

TOM VERHOVSHEK, age 29, Bloomington, Indiana was sentenced to 48 months imprisonment, 3 years supervised release and a \$100.00 special assessment on February 10, 2005 by U. S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following VERHOVSHEK'S guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin.

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